

Message

From: Ferguson, Justin [jferguson@msfb.org]
Sent: 9/4/2020 4:41:02 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]
CC: Ferguson, Justin [jferguson@msfb.org]; Whittington, Andy [awhittington@msfb.org]
Subject: Dicamba

Mrs. Dunn:

Hope all is well. Hope you have a great holiday weekend planned.

First and foremost---thank you for being so open and willing to have a dialogue with the farm groups in regard to the ongoing deliberations with the future of the dicamba technologies. We truly appreciate the working relationship that we have with you and many others in the agency.

I simply wanted to touch base with you on that topic. I visited with Mr. Willard Jack (one of our very active Farm Bureau members from Mississippi) earlier in the week. He indicated that he chatted with you by phone late last week on the re-registration of dicamba. I wanted to basically echo Mr. Jack's comments and thoughts to you in regard to the importance of this technology for the farmers in our state.

I hear from our members on a daily basis about how they absolutely need this technology post-emergent / over the top -- because it is so critical to control weeds and maximize yields.

Dicamba has provided growers of dicamba-tolerant soybean and cotton with an additional active ingredient to manage difficult to control broadleaf weeds during the crop growing season.

Additionally, for cotton and soy producers, the ability to control weeds in season is paramount to ensuring stewardship of a successful crop system.

Farmers don't know when weeds will show up, and they need the flexibility to apply pesticides that works best for their farming operations. Controlling palmer amaranth in a weed resistant world is a challenge that will become a complete set back and major disaster (frankly) if dicamba can not be sprayed over the top.

Mississippi has been a real leader on many fronts in regard to pesticide policy, especially as it pertains to the sustainability of these auxin technologies. We were an early leader in education, training, and outreach to our farmers and applicators. Additionally, we put in place proactive state label restrictions to better steward these products. In fact, for the 2020 growing season, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has only received four (4) off-target drift complaints of suspected dicamba.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to interface with you and look forward to working with the agency as they plan for the reregistration of these important technologies.

Feel free to reach out if we can be helpful.

Thanks,
Justin

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